

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 1, 2002

SENATE BILL

No. 1863

Introduced by Senator Bowen

February 22, 2002

An act to amend Section 882 709 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to public utilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1863, as amended, Bowen. Telecommunications services.

Existing law declares the Legislature's policies for telecommunications in California.

This bill would include, in the Legislature's policies for telecommunications in California, providing educational institutions, health care institutions, community based organizations, and governmental institutions with access to advanced telecommunications services in recognition of their economic and societal impact.

~~Existing law requires the Public Utilities Commission to open a proceeding, or as part of existing proceedings, to consider ways to ensure that advanced telecommunications services are made available as ubiquitously and economically as possible to California's citizens, institutions, and businesses. Existing law requires the commission, in the proceeding or proceedings, to develop rules, procedures, orders, or strategies that seek to provide the state's educational and health care institutions with access to advanced communications services.~~

~~This bill would also require the commission to develop rules, procedures, orders, or strategies that seek to provide the state's nonprofit community technology centers with access to advanced communications services.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~yes~~—no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 ~~SECTION 1.—Section 882 of the Public Utilities Code is~~
2 ~~SECTION 1. Section 709 of the Public Utilities Code is~~
3 ~~amended to read:~~
4 709. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the
5 policies for telecommunications in California are as follows:
6 (a) To continue our universal service commitment by assuring
7 the continued affordability and widespread availability of
8 high-quality telecommunications service to all Californians.
9 (b) *To focus efforts on providing educational institutions,*
10 *health care institutions, community based organizations, and*
11 *governmental institutions with access to advanced*
12 *telecommunications services in recognition of their economic and*
13 *societal impact.*
14 (c) To encourage the development and deployment of new
15 technologies and the equitable provision of services in a way
16 which efficiently meets consumer need and encourages the
17 ubiquitous availability of a wide choice of state-of-the-art
18 services.
19 ~~(e)~~
20 (d) To promote economic growth, job creation, and the
21 substantial social benefits that will result from the rapid
22 implementation of advanced information and communications
23 technologies by adequate long-term investment in the necessary
24 infrastructure.
25 ~~(d)~~
26 (e) To promote lower prices, broader consumer choice, and
27 avoidance of anticompetitive conduct.
28 ~~(e)~~
29 (f) To remove the barriers to open and competitive markets and
30 promote fair product and price competition in a way that
31 encourages greater efficiency, lower prices, and more consumer
32 choice.
33 ~~amended to read:~~
34 ~~882.—(a) The Public Utilities Commission shall, as soon as~~
35 ~~practicable, open a proceeding or proceedings to, or as part of~~

1 existing proceedings shall, consider ways to ensure that advanced
2 telecommunications services are made available as ubiquitously
3 and economically as possible, in a timely fashion, to California's
4 citizens, institutions, and businesses. The proceeding or
5 proceedings should be completed within one year of
6 commencement.

7 (b) The proceeding or proceedings shall develop rules,
8 procedures, orders, or strategies, or all of these, that seek to
9 achieve the following goals:

10 (1) To provide all citizens and businesses with access to the
11 widest possible array of advanced communications services.

12 (2) To provide the state's educational institutions, health care
13 institutions, and nonprofit community technology centers with
14 access to advanced communications services.

15 (3) To ensure cost-effective deployment of technology so as to
16 protect ratepayers' interests and the affordability of
17 telecommunications services.

18 (c) In the proceeding or proceedings, the commission should
19 also consider, but need not limit its consideration to, all of the
20 following:

21 (1) Whether the definition of universal service should be
22 broadened.

23 (2) How to encourage the timely and economic development of
24 an advanced public communications infrastructure, which may
25 include a variety of competitive providers.